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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM college of technology hosts high school hydrogen contest" (2003). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 18531. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/18531>

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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 27, 2003

Contact: R. Paul Williamson, dean, UM-Missoula College of Technology, (406) 243-7851.

UM COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL HYDROGEN CONTEST MISSOULA--

In an effort to promote education about hydrogen-based economies, The University of Montana College of Technology in Missoula is hosting the Hydrogen Education Contest for high school students statewide.

To participate in the contest, students and teachers will work together to prepare a "community energy resource inventory" by answering questions about their area's resources. Specifically, the questions address the resources necessary for a hydrogen-based economy, which include people, education, facilities, renewable resources (such as wood, wind and water), natural resources (such as coal, petroleum, natural gas, propane, methane, platinum and carbon) and off-peak power.

"Every community in Montana has many of these resources," said R. Paul Williamson, COT dean and founder of the Hydrogen Futures Plan. "By going through this process for the contest, students will become aware of their surroundings, understand their resources and gain a broader understanding of a hydrogen economy."

All participating schools will receive hydrogen curriculum materials, and the schools that submit the five best inventories will receive junior solar-to-hydrogen electrolysis fuel cell demonstration units.

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The contest is part of the Hydrogen Futures Plan, a project to move Montana to a hydrogen-based economy. The plan has won the support of the 2003 Montana Legislature and is gaining acceptance around the state.

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